

ALUMINUM RECYCLING CORPORATION DRAFT CONSENT DECREE



The Washington State Department of Ecology is proposing to enter into a Consent Decree with Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) to carry out cleanup activities for the Aluminum Recycling Corporation Site. The Site is located at East 3412 Wellesley Avenue, in the City of Spokane, Spokane County, Washington (Figure 1). The Potentially Liable Persons (PLPs) at the Site are BNSF, Kaiser Aluminum and Chemical Corporation (Kaiser), and Alumax Inc. (Alumax). Kaiser and Alumax, have declined to sign the Consent Decree.

The Consent Decree is a legal document which formalizes the agreement between Ecology and BNSF and is entered and approved by a court. The proposed Consent Decree is being issued under the authority of the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), Chapter 70.105D RCW and ensures the cleanup will proceed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Cleanup Action Plan (CAP) was prepared by Ecology based on information collected and evaluated during the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at the Site. The CAP describes the selected cleanup action, specifies cleanup standards, and identifies

other requirements. The Consent Decree is used as a legal agreement to implement the CAP.

Ecology invites the public to review and comment on the Consent Decree February 8, through March 9, 2001. A public hearing will be held on Monday, March 5, 2001. The box at the right provides hearing details, indicates where written comments may be sent, documents reviewed and additional information obtained.

SITE BACKGROUND

An aluminum dross reprocessing facility was operated by Hillyard Processing Company on the land leased from Burlington Northern Railroad Company. Hillyard Processing Company reportedly began aluminum reprocessing at the Site in 1954, and the activities continued through several operator changes. Aluminum Recycling Corporation was the latest operator of the facility until 1987 when the property was abandoned.

The facility processed aluminum skim, called white dross, in a batch process. The white dross was obtained from aluminum smelters, including Kaiser. The process involved the addition of sodium and potassium chloride salts and the extraction of molten aluminum

FACT SHEET FEBRUARY 2001

REPOSITORIES:

Department of Ecology
Eastern Regional Office
4601 N. Monroe,
Spokane, WA 99205-1295

Spokane Public Library
Hillyard Branch
4005 N. Cook Street
Spokane, WA 99207-5879

Questions or submission of written comments, contact:

Ms. Sandra Treccani
Department of Ecology
Toxics Cleanup Program
4601 N. Monroe
Spokane, WA 99205-1295
(509) 456-2740 or
1-800-826-7716
e-mail: satr461@ecy.wa.gov

Mailing list contact:

Carol Bergin at Ecology
1-800-826-7716 or
(509) 456-6360.
e-mail: cabe461@ecy.wa.gov

PUBLIC HEARING:

March 5, 2001, 7 p.m.
Northeast Community Center
4001 North Cook
Spokane, WA 99207
487-1603

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

February 8, 2001 through
March 9, 2001.

metal, which was poured into ingots and sold. The high chloride waste resulting from this process, known as black dross, remains on site along with non-reprocessed white dross waste. An estimated 65,000 cubic yards of wastes occur in piles A through R and in an abandoned pit on Site (Figure 2).

Ecology completed an inspection in December 1987 and the Site was ranked using the Washington Ranking Method (WARM) in August of 1991.

An Agreed Order between Ecology and BNSF to conduct a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) was signed on November 16, 1998. The RI/FS, completed in November 1999, investigated the nature and extent of contamination at the Site and determined the potential cleanup actions.

Results of the soil, dross, and groundwater sampling completed as part of the RI showed groundwater is contaminated with chloride, fluoride, nitrate, and nitrite; soil contains elevated levels of metals. Dross is the source of these contaminants. The PLPs proposed on-site containment as the preferred cleanup alternative in the FS, and Ecology agreed with that alternative. After public notice and opportunity to comment, this was the selected cleanup action.

Ecology finalized the CAP after a thirty-day public comment period. The contaminants of concern are identified to be: chloride, fluoride, nitrate and nitrite for groundwater, and lead for soils. The levels of these contaminants in each media will determine when the Site is considered clean.

The cleanup action selected by Ecology includes the following elements:

- regrading of site materials;
- installation of a multi-media cover system to prevent infiltration through the dross;
- cover system and fence maintenance;
- quarterly monitoring of groundwater;
- institutional controls, including fences, signs, and restrictive covenants; and
- five year reviews to determine the effectiveness of the selected remedy.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Ecology will review all written public comments on the draft Consent Decree and if necessary, the document will be modified. A Responsiveness Summary will be prepared to address written comments, if applicable. After finalization of the Consent Decree, an Engineering Design will be prepared and the cleanup action work will be performed.

HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

The public comment period represents an opportunity to have your ideas and comments heard by Ecology. Some ways you may be involved are:

◆ **REVIEW the Draft Consent Decree**

The Site documents at the Spokane Public Library/Hillyard Branch are available any time during regular library hours. To review documents in Spokane, contact Johnnie

Harris of Ecology at (509) 456-2751 to schedule an appointment. Reviews may be scheduled for Monday through Thursday, 8-5 p.m. by appointment.

◆ **Send your WRITTEN COMMENTS February 8, 2001 through March 9, 2001 to:**

Ms. Sandra Treccani at Ecology (see box on page one for details).

◆ **ATTEND THE PUBLIC HEARING on the Consent Decree: Monday, March 5, 2001, 7 p.m. at the Northeast Community Center, 4001 North Cook, Spokane, WA**

◆ **SHARE THIS INFORMATION with any individuals or groups you think should be informed about the Site.**